

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01140 070919Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02

BIB-01 CU-02 (ISO) W

-----070940Z 095013 /17

P R 070837Z JUN 77

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7941

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1140

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, XA, CH, UR

SUBJ: PRC VICE PREMIER BLASTS SOVIET UNION

REFS: A) MOSCOW 7553; B) PEKING 1078

1. SUMMARY: PRC USED OCCASION OF JUNE 6 WELCOMING BANQUET FOR
SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI TO UNLEASH VIOLENT ATTACK ON
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SOVIET POLICIES TOWARD CHINA. WE SEE THIS AS PROBABLY PEKING'S
PUBLIC REBUTTAL OF THE MAY 19 SOVIET NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN IN HIS BANQUET TOAST ACCUSED
MOSCOW OF TRYING TO FORCE A CHANGE IN PEKING'S FOREIGN POLICY
AFTER MAO'S DEATH THROUGH MIXTURE OF "SOFT AND TOUGH TACTICS."
MORE RECENTLY, HE SAID, SOVIET UNION HAS SHOWN ITS TRUE COLORS

BY "HURLING VICIOUS SLANDERS AND CURSES AT CHINA" THROUGH ARTICLES, PUBLIC SPEECHES, AND THE MAY 19 DIPLOMATIC NOTE (REFSD). LI CHARGED THAT MOSCOW ACCUSES CHINA OF "ADVENTURISM", AND "EXTENDS TO STATE RELATIONS THE DIFFERENCES ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES," A CLEAR REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS PRC EFFORTS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INTER-PARTY INCOMPATIBILITY AND A WILLINGNESS TO FIND A SETTLEMENT ON STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS.

2. BALANCE OF LI'S UNUSUALLY LONG BANQUET TOAST WAS A CELEBRATION OF SUDAN'S CURRENT ANTI-SOVIET STANCE, HIGHLIGHTING KHARTOUM'S RECENT EXPULSION OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS. HE ALSO MADE THE OBLIGATORY REFERENCES TO SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE, AND TO SOVIET "SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM" AS THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WORLD WAR. NCNA, HOWEVER, GAVE EXTRA PROMINENCE TO LI'S PASSAGE ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS BY EXCERPTING IT AND PRINTING IT AS A SEPARATE ARTICLE, WHICH WAS THEN GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN PEOPLE'S DAILY.

4. SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES BOYCOTTED THE NUMAYRI BANQUET ENTIRELY, APPARENTLY TO AVOID THE SPECTACLE OF ANOTHER WALKOUT. TENOR OF SPEECH WAS QUITE PREDICTABLE FROM THE COURSE OF CHINESE COMMENTARY ON SUDANESE POLICIES OVER THE PAST MONTH, AND WE HAD HEARD PRIOR TALK THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT ATTEND.

5. COMMENT: LI'S STATEMENT IS THE PRC'S MOST EX-CONFIDENTIAL

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PLICIT AND MOST AUTHORITATIVE DENUNCIATION OF MOSCOW'S CHINA POLICY SINCE THE DEATH OF MAO. IT IS ALSO THE FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE SOVIET NOTE OF MAY 19. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE STATEMENT IS MEANT TO BE PEKING'S PUBLIC REBUTTAL OF THE NOTE, AND ITS FORMAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE PRC'S ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY LINE.
DEAN

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